

### *Tobacco-free groups endorse legislation*

Washington, DC - Today, on the 34th annual Great American Smokeout, a nationwide program to encourage smokers to quit, Congressman John Adler announced new legislation to prohibit smoking in all federal buildings. A longtime advocate against secondhand smoke, Congressman Adler was the lead sponsor in the New Jersey state legislature of the Smoke-Free Air Act, now state law, which prohibits smoking in all workplaces and places open to the public.

"This bill will save lives," said Congressman Adler, a longtime advocate of smoke-free workplaces and public areas. "Americans should not have to risk their health walking into a federal building. New Jersey is a leader in this movement, and it's time the rest of the country follows our example."

The Smoke-Free Federal Workplaces Act would permanently prohibit smoking in and 25 feet around all federal building in all branches of government. In 2006, the U.S Surgeon General concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, which can also cause lung cancer and heart disease among adults who do not smoke. In fact, secondhand smoke is responsible for almost 50,000 deaths in the United States each year.

Anti-smoking advocacy groups have endorsed Congressman Adler's bill, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

In a letter to Congressman Adler, the organizations said, "Our organizations are pleased to support your Smoke-Free Federal Workplace Act...This act will finally protect almost all federal employees from secondhand smoke, which kills almost 50,000 Americans each year."